

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18795 241149Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 CU-04 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00

COME-00 IO-13 /090 W

-----031754 241425Z /40

R 241101Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5471

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS:PDIP, TH, JA

SUBJ: FUKUDA VISIT TO THAILAND

REF: (A) BANGKOK 18198 (B) BANGKOK 18581

SUMMARY: JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELLOR TOLD EMBOFF FUKUDA VISIT TO THAILAND WAS CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL ALTHOUGH RECEPTION HERE WAS NOT AS WARM AS IN JAKARTA OR MANILA. LEAFLETS CONDEMNING JAPANESE ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TO PRESS AND STUDENTS ON EVE OF VISIT, AND COUNSELLOR FELT ATMOSPHERE IN BANGKOK HAD NOT CHANGED MUCH SINCE 1975 TANAKA VISIT. GOJ IS ATTEMPTING TO FIND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THAILAND WHICH THAI WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANNOUNCED WHEN THANIN VISITS JAPAN, BUT THAI REQUEST HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFIC, AND JAPAN MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY COMING UP WITH THE FUNDING. COUNSELLOR FELT THANIN VISIT WAS COMING TOO CLOSE UPON FUKUDA VISIT TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 18795 241149Z

SUBSTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AUG 23 CONVERSATION JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELLOR TOLD EMBOFF FUKUDA VISIT TO THAILAND HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A SUCCESS ALTHOUGH RECEPTION HERE HAD NOT BEEN AS WARM AS IN MANILA OR JAKARTA. JAPANESE DIPLOMAT OPINED THAT THAI ATTITUDES TOWARDS JAPAN HAD NOT REALLY CHANGED SINCE TANAKA'S VISIT HERE IN 1975;

RTG SIMPLY HAD BETTER CONTROL OVER THE POPULATION NOW AND WAS ABLE TO PREVENT DISTURBANCES. JAPANESE COUNSELLOR SAID THAT ON EVE OF FUKUDA'S ARRIVAL LEAFLETS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS AND AT UNIVERSITIES CONDEMNING JAPANESE ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF THAILAND AND POINTING OUT IMBALANCES IN THAI-JAPANESE TRADE. LEAFLET, WHICH JAPANESE EMBASSY OBTAINED THROUGH PRESS SOURCES, WAS, ACCORDING TO JAPANESE COUNSELLOR, SOPHISTICATED, WELL-WRITTEN AND WELL PRINTED. HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW WHO HAD PRODUCED THE DOCUMENT.

2. JAPANESE COUNSELLOR NOTED (AS REPORTED REF B) THAT SOME OF THE PRODUCTS WHICH THE THAI FELT JAPAN SHOULD IMPORT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE TRADE BALANCE HAD BEEN UNREALISTIC. OTHER PRODUCTS, SUCH AS MEAT, DID NOT MEET JAPANESE HEALTH STANDARDS. HE NOTED THAT JAPAN HAS SET UP A STATION HERE TO ASSIST THE THAI IN IMPROVING HEALTH AND SANITATION CONDITIONS FOR LIVESTOCK (HE SAID THAT THAI LIVESTOCK SUFFERS HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE), BUT IMPORT OF THAI PRODUCTS WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS WITH AUSTRALIA EVEN IF HEALTH STANDARDS WERE IMPROVED. THAI REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE APPROXIMATELY DOUBLING THE \$100 MILLION ALREADY OFFERED IN YEN CREDITS HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFIC. JAPANESE WERE NOT SURE WHETHER THAI WANTED YEN CREDITS OR GRANTS OR HOW ADDITIONAL FUNDING WOULD BE USED, AND JAPANESE COUNSELLOR SAID HE FELT THAI WERE NOT SURE THEMSELVES. ALTHOUGH IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT JAPAN WOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT QUICKLY, I.E., BEFORE PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S SEPT 7-11 VISIT TO JAPAN, THEY WERE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY. COUNSELLOR SAID THAT PERHAPS LIMITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 18795 241149Z

ADDITIONAL YEN CREDITS COULD BE OFFERED DURING THE THIRD OR FOURTH YEAR OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN BUT THAT WAS ABOUT THE BEST HE THOUGHT GOJ COULD PRODUCE. JAPANESE COUNSELLOR SAID PRIME MINISTER THANIN WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED ON JAPAN VISIT BY MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND FINANCE; AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS HAD ALSO BEEN SCHEDULED TO ACCOMPANY, BUT HAD RECENTLY BEEN DROPPED FROM THE LIST.

3. ASKED IF POLITICAL ISSUES OR INSURGENCY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING FUKUDA VISIT, JAPANESE COUNSELLOR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DURING PRIVATE SESSION, THANIN HAD TALKED WITH FUKUDA ABOUT THAI SECURITY, BUT HE DID NOT HAVE REPORT OF THAT ONE HOUR EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS. COUNSELLOR NOTED THAT JAPANESE HAD FOUND THAI SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT VERY LAX DESPITE PRESS REPORTS THAT STRICT SECURITY MEASURES WERE BEING ENFORCED; "PERHAPS BY THAI STANDARDS THE SECURITY WAS STRICT", BUT JAPANESE EMBASSY HAD BEEN A BIT CONCERNED.

4. ON SUBJECT OF COMMUNIQUE, COUNSELLOR SAID THAT PRIOR TO SEA VISITS, JAPANESE HAD REQUESTED THAT, DUE TO TIME LIMITATIONS, JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOT BE ISSUED. BURMA HAD INSISTED ON A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, BUT ASEAN MEMBERS, PROMPTED BY SINGAPORE, HAD AGREED

THAT SEPARATE STATEMENTS WERE ACCEPTABLE. COUNSELLOR SAID THAT THAILAND HAD WANTED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, BUT HAD ACQUIESCED TO FOLLOW ASEAN COUNTRIES' DECISION. IN JAKARTA, HOWEVER, SUHARTO HAD INSISTED UPON A JOINT STATEMENT WHICH RESULTED IN "A FEW BLAND PRONOUNCEMENTS", AND MARCOS HAD FOLLOWED SUIT. JAPANESE COUNSELLOR SAID HE HOPED THAI WERN'T UPSET BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHERE JAPANESE HAD APPEARED TO GO BACK ON THEIR WORD, BUT HE HAD NOT HEARD ANY COMPLAINTS THUS FAR. RTG SEEMED SATISFIED WITH FUKUDA VISIT AND PLEASED WITH PROSPECT OF THANIN'S GOING TO JAPAN NEXT MONTH ALTHOUGH JAPANESE COUNSELLOR SAID HE REALLY COULDN'T SEE WHAT OF SUBSTANCE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THAI VISIT, FOLLOWING SO CLOSE UPON FUKUDA TRIP HERE.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT SHARE JAPANESE IMPRESSION THAT ANTI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BANGKO 18795 241149Z

JAPANESE SENTIMENT REMAINS AS STRONG TODAY AS IT WAS WHEN TANAKA VISITED HERE. ALTHOUGH PRESS AIRED ITS GRIPE OVER UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE, COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS POSITIVE AND IN SEVERAL INSTANCES CONTRASTED PRESENT ATMOSPHERE WITH TIME OF TANAKA.
O'DONOHUE

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